

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 145548
ORIGIN NEA-11

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NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN XF

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S SUEZ SPEECH
FOR EGYPTIAN FORCES

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN FOR NOON BRIEFING TODAY ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH IN
SUEZ JUNE 7 TO UNITS OF EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY. SUBJECT DID
NOT COME UP IN BRIEFING. POSTS MAY USE AS NECESSARY IN
ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES.

2. BEGIN GUIDANCES:
Q. TODAY, AFTER SADAT'S SECOND SPEECH TO HIS TROOPS ON THE
SUEZ CANAL ABOUT POSSIBLE NEW WAR, DO YOU STILL MAINTAIN
THAT HE HAS NOT RAISED THE "WAR OPTION?"

A.--YOU SHOULD READ WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY IN ITS ENTIRETY.
AS I SAID THEN, PRESIDENT SADAT HAS TALKED ABOUT THE
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POSSIBILITY OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF THE NEGOTIATING PRO-
CESS WERE TO BREAK DOWN. HE IS NOT THREATENING TO BREAK
OFF THE INITIATIVE WHICH BEGAN WITH HIS TRIP TO JERUSALEM
LAST NOVEMBER.
OUR READING OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S WORDS IS THAT HE REMAINS
DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THAT PEACE PROCESS, AND TOLD HIS TROOPS
SO.

IF PRESSED ON WHETHER WE ARE IGNORING THE DANGER IN SADAT'S RAISING THE SPECTRE OF NEW WAR:

--PRESIDENT SADAT WAS TALKING ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF FAILURE OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. WE THINK ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED RECOGNIZE THE DANGER IF THESE NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT SUCCEED.

--AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE PARTIES TO MOVE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD, WE BELIEVE ALL OF US SHOULD BE AND ARE FOCUSING ON WAYS TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE.

--BEYOND THAT, I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT ISRAEL OFFERED EGYPT A SEPARATE PEACE WHEN ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN WENT TO CAIRO LAST MARCH?

A.--THOSE TALKS WERE BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS, AND I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU ON THEM. VANCE

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